

# Brd-Home to Receive \$1.8 Million

By MARILYN RICHARDS

Boarding home programs will receive approximately \$1.8 million for the 1974-75 school year.

The programs were in a state of limbo for a while because the state was hesitant to fund them in hopes federal monies might. When the governor sent down his budget he left open appropriations for the programs that they might be funded through the general fund in case the Johnson-O'Malley funds were not approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

It turned out that the boarding home programs do not qualify for federal monies. The JOM funds could not be used for the programs because the programs are labeled as "special education needs" while JOM is earmarked for "basic education needs."

Time was running out for the programs until the JOM people and rural legislators, said State Sen. John Sackett (R-Galena), met with the governor to determine what source would fund the programs.

The governor then sent a letter to Rep. Oral Freeman (D-Ketchikan) and Sen. Clifford Groh (R-Anchorage), chairman of the House and Senate Finance

Committees respectively. The letter stated that funds from the general fund were allocated for the boarding home programs.

There are 17 boarding home programs in the state, including the eight contractors' and nine state programs, all of which are funded by the state. Programs exist in Nome, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, Kodiak and Bethel. Contract or programs are those operated by Native organizations.

Carol Drake, Fairbanks coordinator of the Tanana Chiefs' program, said that with only a \$1.8 million appropriation, the programs in the state "will be hurting." She explained that last year, state funding was over \$5 million for all programs.

Tanana Chiefs handle seven boarding home programs in the Fairbanks region which includes Fairbanks, Tok, McGrath, Ft. Greely, Nenana, Tanana and Galena. Drake estimated that it takes \$500,000 to operate the Tanana Chiefs' programs and said that "\$1.8 is rather small." Two hundred seventy one students are enrolled in their programs. Drake and Melvin Charlie, TCC president, plan on taking action soon to get more money before the legislature convenes.